

Message Text

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SUBJECT: INTSUM 12, - AUGUST 5, 1976

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED NOT
RELEASABLE TO FOREIGN NATIONALS--NOT RELEASABLE TO
CONTRACTORS OR CONTRACTOR/CONSULTANTS

1. LEBANON. THERE WAS SCATTERED FIGHTING THROUGHOUT
LEBANON ON AUGUST 4. NABAA REFUGEE CAMP WAS SUBJECTED
TO HEAVY SHELLING BY CHRISTIAN FORCES, WHILE IN THE METN
DISTRICT CHRISTIAN ARTILLERY AGAIN BOMBARDED PALESTINIAN-
LEFTIST POSITIONS. IN NORTH LEBANON THERE WAS SMALL ARMS
FIRE AND SPORADIC ARTILLERY SHELLING IN THE TRIPOLI AREA.
2. THE COMMANDER OF THE ARAB LEAGUE SECURITY FORCE
ANNOUNCED THAT THE NATIONWIDE CEASEFIRE THAT WAS PLANNED
FOR AUGUST 4 WAS TO TAKE EFFECT THE MORNING OF AUGUST 5.
3. THE SUCCESSFUL, BUT TENSE, EVACUATION OF 243 WOUNDED
FROM TEL ZAATAR REFUGEE CAMP DURING THE DAY HELPED SMOOTH
THE WAY FOR THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. MORE THAN 1,000 ARE
STILL TRAPPED IN THE CAMP, HOWEVER, AS A RESUMPTION OF
SHELLING SUSPENDED FURTHER EFFORTS BECAUSE OF A LACK OF

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SECURITY FOR RED CROSS CONVOYS. THE RED CROSS HAS DELAYED

ITS NEXT EVACUATION ATTEMPT.

4. CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATIONS WERE CARRIED OUT BY ARAB LEAGUE MEDIATION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THE CHRISTIAN MILITIAS. THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT REFLECT PROVISIONS IN THE DAMASCUS ACCORD ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK. THIS LATEST CEASEFIRE IS THOUGHT TO BE THE FIFTY-FOURTH OF THE SIXTEEN-MONTH-OLD CIVIL WAR, AND THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF SKEPTICISM THAT IT WILL FARE MUCH BETTER THAN ITS NUMEROUS PREDECESSORS.

5. IT WAS REACHED APPARENTLY ON THE CONDITION--PRESUMABLY DEMANDED BY THE CHRISTIANS--THAT ARAB LEAGUE FORCES CREATE A BUFFER ZONE IN BEIRUT ONLY AFTER THE CEASEFIRE HAS TAKEN EFFECT. CHRISTIAN LEADERS, WHO REPORTEDLY HAD BEEN RESISTING DEPLOYMENT OF LEAGUE FORCES ON THE CHRISTIAN SIDE OF THE MAJOR CONFRONTATION LINE DIVIDING EAST AND WEST BEIRUT, MAY HAVE AGREED TO THIS FORMULATION ASSUMING THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR THE CEASEFIRE TAKING HOLD ARE REMOTE.

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF CAMILE SHAMUN'S NATIONAL LIBERAL PARTY REPORTEDLY WENT TO THE MEETING WITH A LIST OF DEMANDS CONCERNING THE WITHDRAWAL OF PALESTINIAN AND LEFTIST TROOPS FROM CHRISTIAN AREAS AND THE REGULATION OF PALESTINIAN REFUGEE CAMPS. THE ARAB LEAGUE COMMANDER MADE NO REFERENCE TO THESE DEMANDS IN HIS ANNOUNCEMENT, ALTHOUGH HE SAID THAT IT HAD BEEN AGREED TO DISCUSS "POLITICAL" ISSUES SEPARATELY FROM CEASEFIRE ARRANGEMENTS.

7. ARAB LEAGUE MEDIATOR AL-KHULI, WHO HAS BEEN CONDUCTING THE TRUCE TALKS, WENT TO DAMASCUS AUGUST 4, PRESUMABLY TO COORDINATE THE LEAGUE'S EFFORTS WITH CHIEF PALESTINIAN NEGOTIATOR QADDUMI AND SYRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM. THE LEFTIST-CONTROLLED BEIRUT RADIO STATION LATER ANNOUNCED THAT KHADDAM WOULD ARRIVE IN BEIRUT AUGUST 5 TO OVERSEE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TRUCE. THERE HAS BEEN NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS FROM DAMASCUS. IF HE DOES MAKE THE TRIP, HOWEVER, IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE NEW CONFIDENCE BY SYRIA THAT A WORKABLE TRUCE CAN BE

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ARRANGED.

8. KHADDAM, WHO ONCE REGULARLY SHUTTLED BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS, HAS NOT BEEN IN BEIRUT FOR SOME MONTHS. HIS APPEARANCE IN BEIRUT MIGHT ALSO REFLECT A SYRIAN DECISION TO PUT DIRECT PRESSURE ON PRINCIPAL CHRISTIAN LEADERS TO ADHERE TO THE CEASEFIRE.

9. HOWEVER, A HIGH-LEVEL CHRISTIAN DELEGATION IS REPORTEDLY ALSO IN DAMASCUS FOR THE TALKS ON IMPLEMENTING THE JULY 29 SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN ACCORD. ACCORDING TO THE SYRIAN MEDIA, THE TALKS WILL DEAL SPECIFICALLY WITH THE FORMATION OF THE QUADRIPARTITE SECURITY COMMITTEE CALLED FOR IN THE ACCORD. QADDUMI IS SAID TO CONSIDER THE FORMATION OF THIS COMMITTEE AND THE SETTING OF A DATE FOR ITS FIRST MEETING AS THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD IMPLEMENTING THE ACCORD.

10. LEFTIST FORCES IN LEBANON ARE REPORTEDLY BEING AUGMENTED BY IRAQI "VOLUNTEERS," ACCORDING TO A RELIABLE CLANDESTINE SOURCE. THE "VOLUNTEERS," WHICH ARE DRAWN PRIMARILY FROM THE IRAQI-CONTROLLED ARAB LIBERATION FORCES (ALF) FEDAYEEN GROUP, ARE REGULARLY SENT VIA EGYPT AND LIBYA. ABOUT 100 IRAQI "VOLUNTEERS" FLEW FROM BAGHDAD TO CAIRO ON JULY 28, AND WERE TO BE MOVED TO LEBANON BY SEA. THE IRAQI EFFORT CAN NOT UPSET THE MILITARY BALANCE, BUT IT COULD GIVE BAGHDAD THE ABILITY TO UNDERCUT A CEASEFIRE IN SOME AREAS.

11. DEVELOPMENTS IN LEBANON HAVE CONTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO A RESUMPTION OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA BETWEEN SYRIA AND EGYPT. THE SYRIAN PRESS RECENTLY CLAIMED THAT THE SINAI II AGREEMENT WAS THE ORIGIN OF THE LEBANESE CRISIS, IN ITS COVERAGE OF THE JULY 29 SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN AGREEMENT. THE PRESS FURTHER CLAIMS THAT ARAB POLITICAL CIRCLES CONTINUE TO EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR THE DAMASCUS ACCORD AND TO CONDEMN THE "MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA OF THE EGYPTIAN REGIME AND ITS FABRICATIONS AND LIES CARRIED OUT IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ATTACK THE ACCORD AND TO DEFEND THE DEFEATIST SINAI AGREEMENT."

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12. THIS SITUATION HAS PUT CAIRO IN A DILEMMA AS IT PONDERES HOW TO COPE WITH IT. TYPICAL OF EGYPT'S REACTION WAS SADAT'S REMARKS TO EXPATRIATE EGYPTIAN STUDENTS ON AUGUST 3. HE DEFENDED SINAI II, CLAIMING THAT THE SYRIAN BATH PARTY AND PALESTINIANS HAD WAGED A "PREMEDITATED CAMPAIGN AND FALSEHOODS AND SLANDERS" AGAINST EGYPT. SADAT SAID THAT, FOLLOWING THE UNFOUNDED UPROAR AGAINST THE ACCORD, THE PALESTINIANS DISCOVERED THAT SYRIA AND KING HUSAYN HAD AGREED ON THE LIQUIDATION OF THE PLO. HE DESCRIBED SYRIAN OPERATIONS AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS IN LEBANON AS WORSE THAN THOSE WAGED BY THE ISRAELIS, NOTING ALSO THAT SYRIA WAS USING SOVIET ARMS AGAINST THE PALESTINIANS. (SECRET/NOFORN/NOCONTRACT)

13. ISRAEL. ABOUT 70 MEMBERS OF ISRAEL'S ULTRA-RIGHT-

WING GUSH EMUNIM ORGANIZATION STAGED A DEMONSTRATION IN FRONT OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S OFFICE ON AUGUST 3 AFTER ISRAELI SOLDIERS HAD TURNED BACK THEIR ATTEMPT TO SET UP AN UNAUTHORIZED SETTLEMENT NEAR JERICHO ON THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK.

14. THE AGITATION IS UNLIKELY TO HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE GOVERNMENT'S LONGSTANDING POLICY OF BARRING JEWS FROM SETTLING IN HEAVILY ARAB-POPULATED AREAS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE RIGHT-WING GROUP HAS LONG DEMANDED THAT JEWS BE ALLOWED TO SETTLE ANYWHERE ON THE WEST BANK.

15. RABIN, IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISRUPTION OF HIS CABINET, AGREED LAST DECEMBER TO ALLOW MEMBERS OF THE GROUP TO REMAIN TEMPORARILY AT QADUM, AN ARMY CAMP IN THE ARAB HEARTLAND OF THE WEST BANK. IN MAY, HOWEVER, THE CABINET UPHELD THE GOVERNMENT'S AUTHORITY TO SELECT SETTLEMENT SITES AND DECIDED TO PRESENT THE GROUP WITH A CHOICE OF OTHER PLACES TO SETTLE. NEGOTIATIONS OVER POSSIBLE SITES HAVE BOGGED DOWN. THE SETTLERS CONTINUE TO INSIST THAT THE GOVERNMENT PERMIT JEWS TO SETTLE ANYWHERE ON THE WEST BANK. MODERATES IN THE CABINET HAVE BEGUN TO URGE RABIN TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE MAY DECISION.

16. CONSERVATIVES IN THE GOVERNMENT, LED BY DEFENSE
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MINISTER PERES, ARE PUSHING FOR A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE SETTLERS. THE CONSERVATIVES HAVE RECENTLY TRIED TO EMBARRASS RABIN BY ACCUSING HIM OF OPPOSING JEWISH SETTLERS WHILE ACQUIESCING IN ILLEGAL ARAB SQUATTING ON STATE-OWNED LANDS.

17. RABIN IS LIKELY TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATING WITH LEADERS OF THE RIGHTIST GROUP TO AVOID A SHOWDOWN BETWEEN MODERATES AND CONSERVATIVES THAT MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE GOVERNING COALITION. HE PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO SECURE THE ACQUIESCENCE OF HIS CONSERVATIVE PARTNERS, BUT HE WOULD PROBABLY SEEK TO DELAY FURTHER A FINAL RESOLUTION RATHER THAN FACE A CONFRONTATION WITH CONSERVATIVES OVER THE EXPLOSIVE ISSUE OF FORCIBLY REMOVING THE SETTLERS. (CONFIDENTIAL) HABIB

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